



The British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association

**127th Annual Convention
January 29th - 30th, 2016**



Program & Portfolio

Ramada Kelowna Hotel & Conference Centre
Kelowna, British Columbia

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BCFGA Annual Convention, Friday and Saturday, January 29-30, 2016.

Ramada Hotel, Kelowna, BC

AGENDA

FRIDAY, January 29, 2016	
Time	Agenda Item
1:00 pm	Business session
	Opening - Welcome from Kelowna Mayor Colin Basran Agenda and meeting guidelines, Appreciation, Minutes
1:30 pm	Financial Statements and General Manager's report
2:00 pm	Replant Program - Carl Withler
2:30 pm	BCFGA Companies Panel - SVC, BCFGA R&D Orchard
3:30 pm	Industry Updates Panel - CHC, CFA, BCAC
4:30 pm	Adjourn to Saturday
Reception FRIDAY, February 20	
6:00 – 8:00 pm	Social and awards

SATURDAY, January 30, 2016	
Policy Session	
8:30 am	Reconvene, Executive Report
9:00 am	Crop Protection, SIR, Environment and Food Safety
9:30 am	Keynote Speaker: Gerry Zimmerman, Vice-Chair, and Kim Grout, CEO, Agricultural Land Commission (invited)
10:00 am	Financial Programs and Production Insurance: Growing Forward 3
10:30 am	Federal Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Lawrence MacAulay (invited)
11:00 am	Break , deadline for late resolutions is 11:00 am
11:30 am	Provincial Agriculture Minister, Hon. Norm Letnick (invited)
noon	Welcome: Stephen Fuhr, MP, Kelowna Lake Country Luncheon - soup and sandwich
1:00 pm	Member Services and Public Relations, Water Sustainability Act
2:00 pm	Elections: Procedure, Candidate presentations, Balloting Deferred and Late Resolutions. Member input on By-laws.
4:00 pm	Concluding Remarks. Adjourn.

The complete, updated agenda and all reports are available at www.bcfga.com

2016 resolutions

1. Whereas agricultural labour supply in Canada is short and foreign workers are required to make up the shortfall, and
Whereas The International Experience Program helps agricultural operations by providing temporary work visas to travelling youth, and
Whereas the IEP is the result of bilateral agreements that allow Canadian youth to work in foreign countries while travelling, and Whereas in Canada the foreign youth need to apply for a IEP work visa before coming to Canada, and
Whereas New Zealand has successfully shown that issuing IEP-type visas after the travelling youth arrive in Canada is a viable alternative for increasing the availability of IEP workers in agriculture,
Therefore be it resolved that that qualified tourists be able to apply for an International Experience Program visa after arrival in Canada.
2. Whereas the purpose of the Sterile Insect Release program is to protect apples from Codling Moth, and
Whereas newly planted trees do not have commercial apple production until trees have 3-5 years growth,
Therefore be it resolved that rootstock (nursery) and trees one year old not be charged a SIR parcel tax.
3. Whereas the Sterile Insect Release program has achieved control of Codling Moth damage below 0.2 percent overall, and
Whereas the program has maintained its rates at the same level for six years, including the year 2016 with no increase budgeted,
Therefore be it resolved that the SIR services continue to strive for efficiencies.
4. Whereas an extreme wind event occurred in the South Okanagan Similkameen in 2015 which damaged apple crops, and
Whereas the extreme nature of this event was unprecedented,
Therefore be it resolved that the BCFGAs request that crop insurance insure wind damage under quality coverage in the crop insurance program.
5. Whereas the tree fruit sector has entered into a period of expansion, and
Whereas the replant program is a vital part of the renewal of obsolete varieties and unproductive orchards, and
Whereas the program is oversubscribed for 2015 and 2016,
Therefore be it resolved that additional funding be provided for the replant program so that all qualifying projects are funded.
6. Whereas chipping trees removed from orchards as part of the renewal process is an alternative to burning the trees, and
Whereas reducing smoke is a benefit to all citizens, and
Whereas the chipping programs in the Regional Districts frequently appear to be short of funding to service all chipping requests from orchards , especially requests made after November each year for Spring chipping,
Therefore be it resolved that regional districts provide adequate funding for chipping programs to operate all year.
7. Whereas part of the orchard renewal process results in a need to dispose of treated wood posts,
Therefore be it resolved that the BCFGAs investigate practical methods for the disposal of posts, by working with post manufacturers and regional districts.

8. Whereas the BC tree fruit and vegetable sectors have been harmed by the expansion of apple, cherry, potato and onion crops in Washington State, and
Whereas this expansion of intensive crop production in Washington State is made possible by the reliable water flows provided by dams constructed in BC to store and control the flow of water into the Columbia River, and
Whereas the province has indicated that the 50-60 year renewal process of the CRT currently underway must recognize impact on BC producers and the value of the irrigation flows to the US,
Therefore be it resolved that the BCFGGA encourage the province to include the impact on BC agriculture in the Columbia River Treaty renewal.
9. Whereas greenways and road corridors allow deer to migrate to urban areas, including rural-urban areas with orchards, and
Whereas climate change may be reducing the traditional forage producing crownland area due to lack of moisture and excessive summer heat, and
Whereas lack of natural controls on urban and rural-urban deer is leading to increased deer population and an increase in damage caused to orchards,
Therefore be it resolved that BCFGGA demand that the provincial and federal governments deal address the growth in urban deer populations and the damage incurred by agriculture.
10. Whereas hunting permits in the interior tree fruit producing areas are difficult or impossible to obtain under current restrictions of municipalities and the Ministry of Environment, and
Whereas a pilot program in the Capital Region District to issue nuisance deer hunting permits is having positive results,
Therefore be it resolved that the BCFGGA request that nuisance deer hunting permits be available in the Okanagan as in the Capital Region District.
11. Whereas the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Program has a very high level of participation by horticultural producers in the interior region, and whereas this high participation level was mainly due to the provision of grants for Beneficial Management Practices, and Whereas the EFP certification must be renewed after 5 years, and
Whereas the reduction in funding and subsequent loss of BMPs has unfairly targeted interior horticultural producers by cancelling the most important BMPs and virtually eliminating the interest in the EFP Program in the interior horticulture sector, and
Whereas examples of popular BMPs that are no longer funded by the EFP program include deer fencing (wildlife damage), pesticide storage sheds (water quality), irrigation system improvements (water quantity), and flail mowers (air quality), and
Whereas instead of providing incentives, the province and municipalities appear to be choosing to regulate the use of water, deer hunting, and burning, and
Whereas the province is claiming to reduce red tape, and
Whereas the rate of attrition of EFP certificates exceeds the rate of new certifications - especially in interior horticulture sectors,
Therefore be it resolved that BCAC and the province be requested to focus on incentives rather than red tape and further be it resolved that the province reverse the erosion of EFP Program funding for Beneficial Management Practices.

12. Whereas water is necessary to protect the investment of up to \$35,000 per acre in fruit trees, irrigation and trellis systems, and
Whereas a disruption of water supply to horticulture producers will disrupt the industry and remove productive assets from ongoing production, and
Whereas there are other users of water that do not rely on water to make large, ongoing contributions to the local economy to the extent of horticultural producers, and
Whereas there are other users who can scale their water use back in drought years and not impact their long-term economic survival,
Therefore be it resolved that the BCFGA promote the availability of affordable water and further be it resolved that agriculture allocations be given priority.
13. Whereas the Sterile Insect Release program has developed expertise and infrastructure for monitoring, clean-up of host trees, and control measures (i.e. sterile insect release and pheromone distribution), and
Whereas these services could lead to an economic improvement in control costs and damage caused by pests other than Codling Moth, and
Whereas the use of SIR to apply an area-wide IPM to other pests could realize significant economy of scope by making better use of SIR infrastructure and expertise,
Therefore be it resolved that BCFGA and SIR develop a plan for area wide pest control for Apple Clearwing Moth, Spotted Wing Drosophila and other tree fruit pests for the consideration of growers.
14. Whereas new invasive pests of tree fruits are a significant threat to tree fruit production in BC,
Therefore be it resolved that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency increase its vigilance to protect quarantine areas from invasive pests.
15. Whereas growth in the tree fruit sector is a key element of the industry strategy, and
Whereas market growth in domestic and international markets is important,
Therefore be it resolved that the BCFGA work with the Cooperative and other packing houses to open new markets to tree fruit exports.
16. Whereas surveys of the public and consumer response at apple tasting events that indicate that the GMO apple is high in the consumer's mind, and
Whereas that the overall impact of introduction of the GMO Arctic Apple could have a negative market impact on the apple market overall, and
Whereas the organic tree fruit sector is extremely concerned about the introduction of the GMO Arctic Apple,
Therefore be it resolved that the BCFGA request government to de-register the Arctic Apple immediately, and
Further be it resolved that the government place a moratorium on future GE tree fruit pending scientific research and trade and consumer impacts, and
Further be it resolved that there be no compensation for de-registration, for those GMO/GE growers who plant GMO Arctic Apple trees after Nov. 10, 2015.
17. Whereas Apple Clearwing Moth is a new invasive pest of apple trees,
Therefore be it resolved that the BCFGA coordinate an area-wide control program for ACM using the pheromone Isomate P, and
Further be it resolved that the BCFGA apply for innovation program funding to immediately launch a 3 year pilot program in 2016.

18. Whereas the new Water Sustainability Act was introduced in 2015, and
Whereas a severe drought in 2015 showed the importance of managing the water supply,
Therefore be it resolved that agriculture water availability be protected under the new Water Sustainability Act and Regulations.
19. Whereas a list of agricultural inputs is exempt from PST, and
Whereas the administration of the list is time-consuming and passes some liability onto the vendor for managing PST exemptions and this creates problems with processing PST exemptions,
Therefore be it resolved that all agricultural inputs be exempt from PST.
20. Whereas climate change is leading to programs to reduce carbon emissions, and
Whereas agriculture can reduce carbon in the atmosphere when carbon that the farmers receive a refundable tax credit for sequestration of carbon, and
Whereas climate change is being addressed in federal government programs, and
Whereas water-saving and energy-saving technologies will help adapt to climate change and also slow climate change, respectively,
Therefore be it resolved that the federal infrastructure program for the private sector be used to promote water-saving and energy-saving technologies, both on-farm and in packing plants.
21. Whereas unionized municipal employees and employers have, as part of their collective bargaining rights, the ability to withdraw services and go on strike or lockout, and
Whereas essential services are shielded from strike action,
Therefore be it resolved that the services required for water supply for agriculture irrigation be declared an essential service by the Labour Relations Board.
22. Whereas no agriculture commodity is successful without research and development and promotion, and
Whereas the BC Cattlemen's Association estimates there is a 7:1 return for their promotion agency,
Therefore be it resolved that the BCFGa investigate the possibility of holding another vote on a research and promotion levy under Farm Industry Development Act and the National Farm Products Marketing Act.
23. Whereas the use of glyphosphate is integral to orchard management for non-organic farms, and
Whereas there is dispute around the impact of Glyphosphate on environment,
Therefore be it resolved that industry events be scheduled to bring qualified researchers to provide information on the use of Glyphosphate.
24. Whereas the cost of crop protection and nutrition products may be higher in Canada than the US,
Therefore be it resolved that the BCFGa coordinate Grower Requested Own Use applications for importing chemical and fertilizer inputs from the US, at US prices.
25. Whereas recent changes at the Ministry of Agriculture, including budget cuts, have resulted in the withdrawal of funding from programs delivered by agriculture associations, and
Whereas the administration of programs by agriculture associations is efficient, effective, and strengthens agriculture associations through a contribution to overhead costs, and
Whereas "for profit" rules are being applied to 'not for profit' agriculture associations when making decisions on program administration,
**Therefore be it resolved that the Ministry of Agriculture budget be increased to restore programs, and
Further be it resolved that the Minister of Agriculture make explicit with the Ministry of Agriculture that a government goal is the strengthening agriculture associations that provide vital services to primary producers, government and citizens.**

Report to the 2016 BCFGGA Convention
From the
Executive Committee

At an early Executive meeting this year, we set the following activities as top priorities:

Priority	Goal
1	Cherry Production Insurance - an assessment and re-structuring of the plan to provide effective insurance coverage and maximize producer participation in the program.
2	Develop and seek government support for a program that directly funds 'bare land' for planting or alternately seek government support for a program that indirectly supports expansion of acreage, e.g. Niche market development, export market development, infrastructure investment.
3	Adequate Labour: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - promote and maintain SAWP. - promote international work experience / working holiday Visa.
4	Deer cull, deer fencing - engage in discussions with municipalities regarding the control of problem deer populations in urban and orchard areas.
5	Federal Election October 15, 2015 - influence the formation of party platforms through CHC and CFA, and inform growers of party agriculture platforms.

The executive focused on these activities throughout the year, as follows:

1. We did in the past couple of years place emphasis on the cherry program, as we were told by growers that the cherry program needed to be reviewed. We cooperated with the province in setting up an advisory committee on Cherry Production Insurance. We understand that the government is considering the committee's recommendations, but the earliest there would be changes would be 2017.
2. We have held discussions on the types of programs that may be best suited to 'bare land'. We are gauging grower interest in a no- or low-interest loan for the first, non-producing years of a new planting. So far, response is mixed, so we will appreciate your input at the Convention.
3. We continue our high level of activity in the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program and have promoted the International Experience Program to growers through our newsletter. I appreciate the leadership of Pinder Dhaliwal in labour issues.
4. After years of having difficulty engaging the province in a discussion on damage to orchards caused by wildlife (deer), we have not one, but two processes. The Minister of Forests announced an advisory committee on problem urban deer and we have asked to be included. Secondly, the Minister of Agriculture is currently doing a consultation on problem wildlife and we are part of the process.
5. The BCFGGA was active in getting federal election agricultural platform information to our members. We sponsored all candidates meetings and met with several candidates.

In addition to acting on our top priorities, we

- participated in discussions on the Columbia River Treaty.
- attended Creston and the Kootenays to begin a discussion on growing the tree fruit industry in that area, with the assistance of the Columbia Basin Trust.

I have started using new media such as Facebook and private messaging to create a new channel of communication with the provincial Minister of Agriculture and the Chair of the Agricultural Land Commission, our new federal representative in Kelowna-Lake Country. We were also involved with

organizations such as the Canadian Horticultural Council, the BC Agriculture Council. I was elected Vice-President of the BC Agriculture Council early in the year.

Replant and the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Programs require attention of the Executive, and we do our best to improve these programs for growers, and we will continue to work on further improvements to these programs.

Summerland Varieties Corporation

During the course of the year there was another management change and SVC temporarily put in place Frank Kappel. This appointment is now permanent based on Frank's excellent reputation and his outstanding performance as interim manager. The BCFGGA allowed the board to manage their situation and we provided assistance where required.

Industry Strategy

We continued to consult with various tree fruit industry groups on the industry strategy. The draft strategy was reviewed at the last Convention. We need to place priority on delivering the strategy in coming years.

Media Relations

I continue to contribute a regular column to Orchard and Vine and BC Fruit Grower magazines. We renewed our agreements with these publications as well as "The Grower", an Ontario horticultural newspaper, to deliver free of charge to our members.

Promotion

I volunteer each year for the Ambrosia Council's booth at Regina's AgriBition. BCFGGA also participates in a number of other events: Interior Provincial Exhibition, the Kelowna Apple Triathlon, the Salmon Arm Applefest and the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto to name a few.

Conclusion

There are of course a myriad of other BCFGGA activities.

In closing I would like to thank my fellow Executive members and staff for their extraordinary efforts this year.

Pinder Dhaliwal, Vice-President

Tony Nijjar

Ravinder Bains

Surjit Nagra

Sukhdeep Brar

Denise MacDonald

Neil Dendy

BCFGGA staff: Glen Lucas, Sheila McGregor, Bunvir Nijjer, and Brenda Zarr.

Together we will make progress and the industry will grow and be vibrant.

Respectfully submitted

Fred Steele

President

Report to the 2016 BCFGA Convention
From the
BCFGA General Manager

2015 was a challenging year, due to unexpected changes in programs and events. However, the Executive and staff of the BCFGA were able to address these new challenges and complete almost all of our normal activities.

New challenges included:

- starting up a new 2015 Replant program which included many program and administrative changes.
- Launching the intake for the 2016 Replant Program.
- Moving our office to 880 Vaughan Avenue, Kelowna, in July.
- New housing inspectors for the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program.
- A very long federal election campaign.
- New/proposed regulations: 5 regulatory proposals by 4 different provincial ministries are active.

As a result of these many challenges, we were spread thin on the staff side. We were unable to conduct our usual annual municipal updates, but we were able to make our usual annual presentation to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services (the provincial budget review committee). We would have liked to devote more resources to the industry strategy, but we were able to organize an Apple Clearwing Moth investigation project, which may lead to a larger scale project in the near future. We were able to carry out our public relations program, attending the Apple Triathlon, Interior Provincial Exhibition and Salmon Arm Apple Festival, though it was a challenging year to keep these events active.

Staff and BCFGA Programs

On the staff side, we are grateful not to have challenges! Brenda Zarr, Member Services Coordinator, is relatively new to the position and 2015 was her first full calendar year at BCFGA. Brenda was instrumental in processing of hundreds of 2015 and 2016 Replant applications during the calendar year. Two of our employees work 25% for BCFGA and 75% for Summerland Varieties Corporation - Bunvir Nijjer, Corporate Secretary and Sheila MacGregor, Accountant, have shown flexibility and professionalism in agreeing to work for both BCFGA and SVC. Mike Read and Sera Lean are contracts Replant Program inspectors.

Our small staff is very effective and completes an incredible amount of work to deliver programs and services to growers, as well as coordinate the operation of the BCFGA. Administered programs include:

- Replant - The BCFGA took on the administration of the new replant program, 2015 - 2021 as announced at the last Convention. We do not agree with the arbitrary reduction of the administration fee imposed by the province despite the evidence we provided on our costs, but the BCFGA knows that its members value the Replant Program and the BCFGA is committed to administering the program.
- Tree Fruit Industry Development Fund (TFIDF), which we expect to finally wind up in this year. The \$2 million fund was established by province to support the replant program and has supported over 100 projects.

Services and Programs

This is the sixteenth year that the Convention Portfolio has been delivered to all BCFGA members, though it is in abbreviated form to respond to member concerns for economy in the use of BCFGA resources. The usual reports will be available online at www.bcfga.com. These reports will also be available in printed form at the Annual Convention.

Programs are delivered either directly by BCFGA or indirectly through our subsidiary BCFGA Research and Development Orchard Ltd., as follows:

- Pesticide-Applicators Recertification Program.
- Tree Fruit Production Guide spray schedules and TFPG online (www.bctfpg.com).
- Assistance in completing Seasonal Agriculture Worker Program applications.
- BCFGA Farm Labour Orientation and Safety Program.
- Export Inspection Coordination.

We employ contractors on a temporary basis as well. Ron Forrest did the summer labour project and helped out at the Interior Provincial Exhibition. Also during the year, we cooperated with various industry research projects by adding contract research staff to our payroll, with salaries fully recovered from the project funding. We retain Hugh Philip to do contract work on Crop Protection tasks. Hugh is a great asset and the Crop Protection work is progressing due to his dedicated work.

Support for Other Organizations

The BCFGAs continue to provide administrative support for the BCAC Interior Horticulture Sector, and we assisted Summerland Varieties Corporation with another search process for a new General Manager, as Frank Kappel took the reins at SVC this year.

Financial

The financial picture for the association is balanced for the 2015 year, mainly due to processing one and a half Replant years in the space of 9 months. This will not recur in future years. We are focusing on adding new programs that the BCFGAs may administer to generate funds towards our overhead costs, while providing program benefits for members.

Both BCFGAs are helping the BCFGAs on the income side or by taking on projects that the BCFGAs used to fund, by utilizing and sharing the cost for some of our staff resource, and by making direct contributions to advertising at BCFGAs events. The Okanagan Tree Fruit Cooperative continues to be a key supporter of BCFGAs activities, as this is the ninth year that all co-op members will be BCFGAs members. This support strengthens the BCFGAs and allows us to focus on providing value to members.

Conclusion

The year 2016 was challenging in many ways. We deferred some of our usual activity as result of new, unanticipated challenges, but overall we were able to deliver more with less.

At your service,
Glen Lucas

BCFGAs Staff:

Glen Lucas
Brenda Zarr
Sheila MacGregor
Bunvir Nijjer

General Manager
Member Services Coordinator
Accountant
Corporate Secretary

BC Fruit Growers' Association Delegates and Alternate Delegates 2016

SOUTH

Delegates (7)

David Machial (Chair)
Parm Dhaliwal (Vice-Chair)
Denise MacDonald (Secretary)
Mewa Gill
Rajinder Brar
Allan Patton
Doug Nield

Alternates

Jack Machial
Meher Khaira
Julie Sardinha
Peter Simonsen
Ranbir Kambo

NORTH

Delegates (9)

Tarsem Goraya (Chair)
David Dobernigg (Vice-Chair)
Amarjit Lalli (Secretary)
Asif Mohommad
Tony Nijjar
Jora Dhaliwal
Joginder Dhand
Sukhdev Goraya
Tahir Rasa

Alternates

Tony DiMaria
David H. Geen
Niel Dendy

Nominations for the 2016 BCFGGA Executive

(recorded in alphabetical order)

Position	Nominations from the Northern Region	Nominations from the Southern Region
President	Jeet Dukhia Fred Steele	Jeet Dukhia Fred Steele
Vice-President	Pinder Dhaliwal	Pinder Dhaliwal
3 Northern Executive to be elected	Sukhdev Goraya Asif Mohammed Surjit Nagra Tony Nijjar Tahir Raza	
3 Southern Executive to be elected		Ravinder Bains Sukhdeep Brar Peter Simonsen

Appreciation for the Annual Convention Sponsor



Summerland Varieties Corp (SVC) is a variety rights management company that licenses new varieties of tree fruits and berries domestically and internationally.

SVC represents both government and private plant breeders. On behalf of variety owners, SVC grants rights to growers and other third parties to propagate new varieties and produce and sell the fruit of such varieties. In return, the licensees pay licensing fees and royalties to SVC which SVC administers on behalf of the owners.

SVC also operates Canada's only virus free budwood orchard at PARC, Summerland which supplies plant propagation material to nurseries, orchardists and commercial growers worldwide.

www.summerlandvarieties.com